

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 have been canceled without prejudice.

New claims 17-44 are pending in the application.

The Office rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-16 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot. Applicants believe new claims 17-44 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph.

The Office rejected claims 1-3, 5, 9-10 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Howard 4,884,071. Claims 1-3, 5, 9-10 and 15-16 have been canceled now, rendering this rejection moot.

New claims 17-44 are drawn to a drill string comprising a plurality of downhole components with a tuned electrical communication system. Each downhole component has two electrically coupled transmission devices, with one transmission device mounted in each end of the downhole component such that the transmission device is paired with and spaced a distance from the adjacent transmission device in the adjacent joined downhole component. The distance between each set of paired transmission devices is substantially constant, forming a tuned electrical communication system.

Howard '071 does not disclose spacing a series of devices to form a 'tuned' system in this manner, and therefore do not disclose the present invention. To effect this tuning in the present

invention, it is important that the spacing between all the adjacent devices along the drill string be substantially constant.

Since the tuned system in a drill string as described in new claims 17-44 is not disclosed in Howard '071, Applicants believe that claims 17-44 are not anticipated.

The Office rejected claims 4, 6-8 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard 4,884,071. Claims 4, 6-8 and 11-14 have been canceled now, rendering this rejection moot.

The new claims equivalent to canceled dependent claims 4, 6-8 and 11-14, however, now depend from allowable base claims. Applicants believe that for this reason and the arguments above, new claims 17-44 are allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request allowance of claims 17-44.

In view of the amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 180584 in the amount of \$144, the fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(c) for the addition of 8 claims in excess of 20. It is believed that there are no other fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at 832-681-8623.

Respectfully submitted,



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